Report on Toxins in Food

1304. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report on toxins in food was buried for ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No such report on Toxins in food stated has been buried for ten years by the Government.

However, the report of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Surveillance of Food Contaminants in Indian prepared on the basis of a Multi-centric Study carried out from 1986 to 1993 was not found to be accurate in the analysis interpretation, conclusions drawn and the method of reporting. Accordingly the report was withdrawn by ICMR in 1994.

Traditional knowledge digital library project

1305. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CD comprising Ayurvedic formulations was released in October, 2003 in project Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), funded by ISM&H, at National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR);

(b) if so, the number of Ayurvedic formulations contained in CD;

(c) whether TKDL project for documenting 35,000 ayurvedic formulations was likely to be completed by December, 2002 and website operational by September, 2002;

(d) if so, the number of ayurvedic formulations completed as on today;

(e) the status of website and the number of ayurvedic formulations available/transcribed in website;

(f) the reasons for dealy for implementing TKDL; and

(g) the grant sanctioned and utilized therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The CD of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) containing 500 Ayurvedic formulation was released on 23.10.2003.

(c) and (d) The time schedule for the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project was extended to 31.8.2003. The first phase of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project which was completed on 31.8.2003 contains 36,000 Ayurvedic formulations.

(e) The access to TKDL shall be provided to international Patent Offices after getting non disclosure agreement.

(f) Documentation, checking and rechecking of the formulations is a time consuming work and the number of formulations increased to 36,000 from 35,000 proposed initially.

(g) The grant sanctioned and released till date for Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project is Rs. 1,70,68,000/- by Department of AYUSH. The expenditure made as on 4.12.2003 is Rs. 1,69,73,570/- for first phase of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Ayurveda project.

Recurrence of SARS

1306. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction on the report of the World Health Organization that there are strong chances of break out of SARS again in the country; and

(b) whether Government have taken any effective measures to prevent the outbreak of SARS again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) World Health Organization (WHO) has advocated to all its member countries to be vigilant as resurgence of SARS remains a distinct possibility. Accordingly, WHO has provided guidance for post outbreak period based on risk assessment.

India had only three imported probable SARS cases and there was no local transmission to health care workers/other persons. For countries